CANUCK LAW
Reporting That You're Not Getting Elsewhere (Do Your Own Research To Verify)

FEBRUARY 24, 2021 BY RONNIE

DisinfoWatch: Ties To Atlas Network, Connected To LPC Political Operatives

Another website is out, this one called DisinfoWatch. It's a rather ironic name, considering who funds it, and that its agenda is to parrot the Government narrative,

1. DisinfoWatch Is Brand New Group

MONITOR

We identify and track mis/disinformation narratives and trends emerging from both domestic and foreign sources, through a global network of partners

.

RESEARCH

When we detect potential Covid related mis/disinformation we analyze content, its sources and seek to debunk wherever possible. Examples are then added to our database

.

LITERACY

Promoting digital literacy with the latest learning resources to foster greater awareness of mis/disinformation and promote skills such as source, claim and fact checking.

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DEFEND

By exposing and debunking mis/disinformation on an ongoing basis and producing regular DisinfoDigests, DisinoWatch builds resilience against it – regardless of source or intent.

DisinfoWatch's Twitter account started in September 2020. At the time of writing this, there are only 65 tweets listed. This was clearly set up specifically for this "pandemic". There are also several examples cited of their work making its way into mainstream outlets. The site also contains a database of disinformation and debunked claims to go through.

2. Who Is Behind DisinfoWatch's Media Efforts?

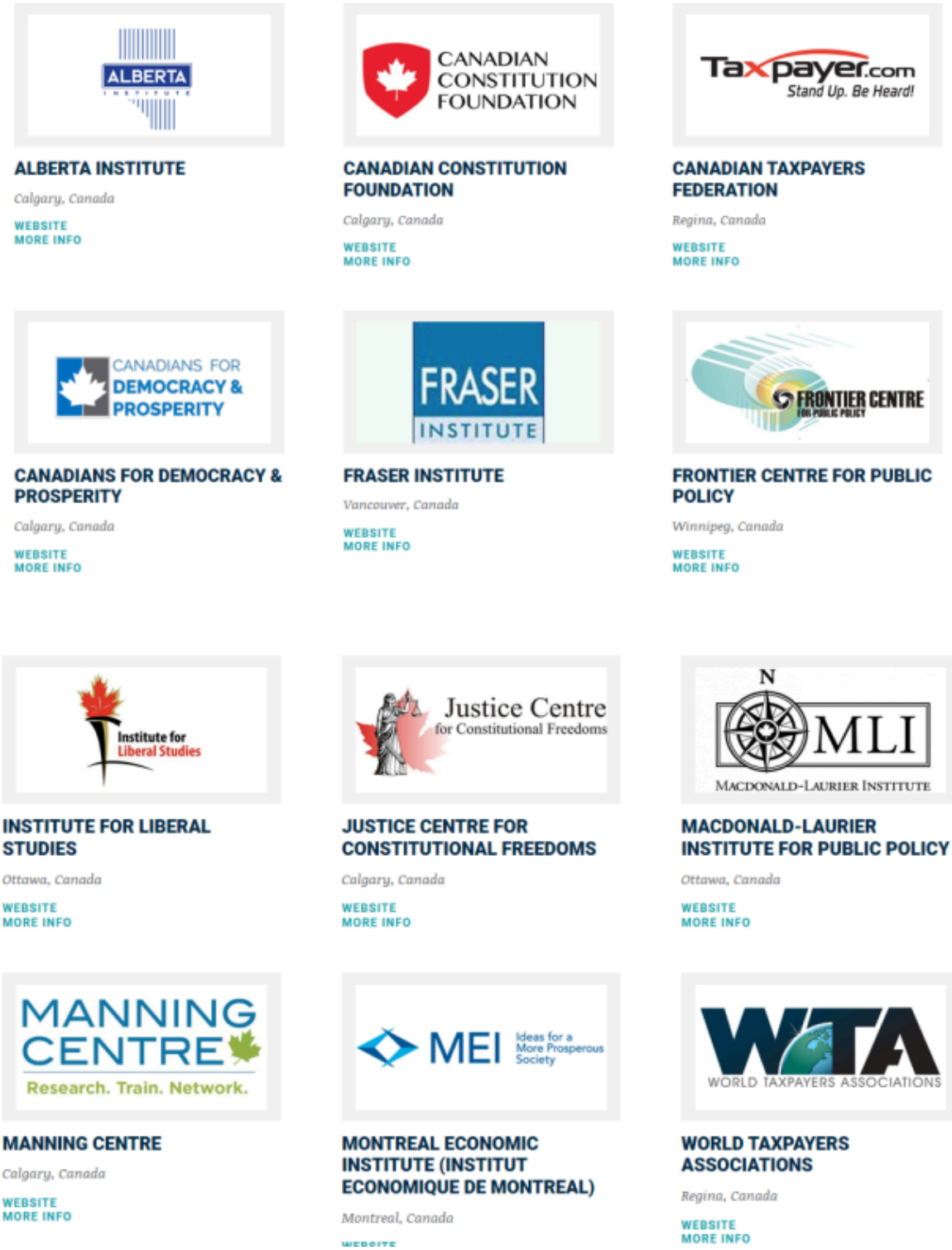
> DisinfoWatch.org is the Macdonald-Laurier Institute's new COVID-19 and foreign disinformation monitoring and debunking platform. http://macdonaldlaurier.ca

That quote is from the Twitter profile. On the website, near the bottom, 2 organizations are listed, and it's implied that they are behind everything.

- Journalists For Human Rights
- MacDonald-Laurier Institute

Both entities will be addressed in the following sections. Things are not quite what they seem to be, as the rabbit hole goes much deeper.

3. MacDonald-Laurier Part Of Atlas Network



- Alberta Institute
- Canadian Constitution Foundation
- Canadian Taxpayers Federation
- Canadians For Democracy And Transparency
- Fraser Institute
- Frontier Center For Public Policy
- Institute For Liberal Studies

- Justice Center For Constitutional Freedoms
- ***MacDonald-Laurier Institute For Public Policy***
- Manning Center
- Montreal Economic Institute
- World Taxpayers Federation

Atlas' partners can be searched instantly online. When this last piece was written, Atlas Network had 12 Canadian partners. A few changes have been made, and now there are currently 11.

- Alberta Institute
- Canadian Constitution Foundation
- Canadian Taxpayers Federation
- Canadians For Democracy And Transparency
- Fraser Institute
- Frontier Center For Public Policy
- Institute For Liberal Studies
- ***MacDonald-Laurier Institute For Public Policy***
- Manning Center
- Montreal Economic Institute
- Second Street

Both the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms and the World Taxpayers Federation are no longer listed as partners. However, the organization we are mostly interested in is the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

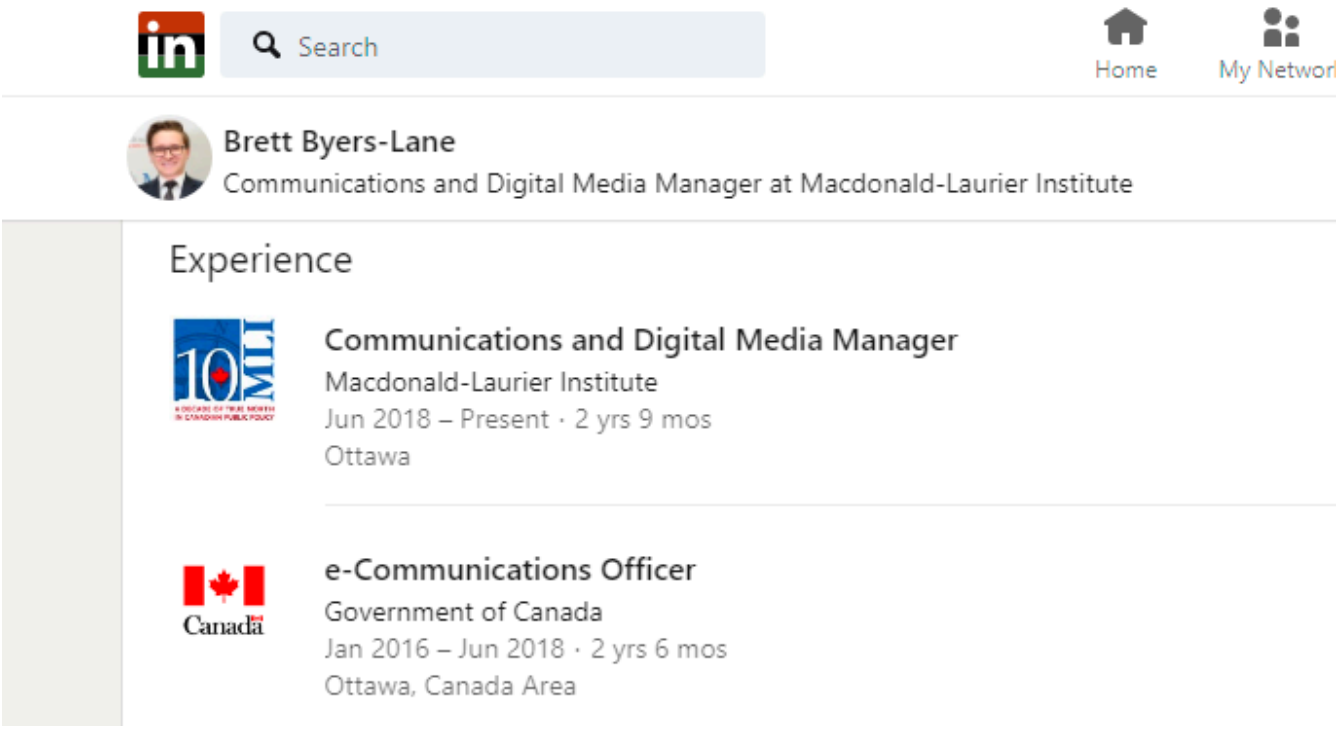
Interesting aside, the JCCF, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, is responsible for filing several court actions against Provincial Governments.

Also, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney used to be the President of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, which is also part of Atlas.

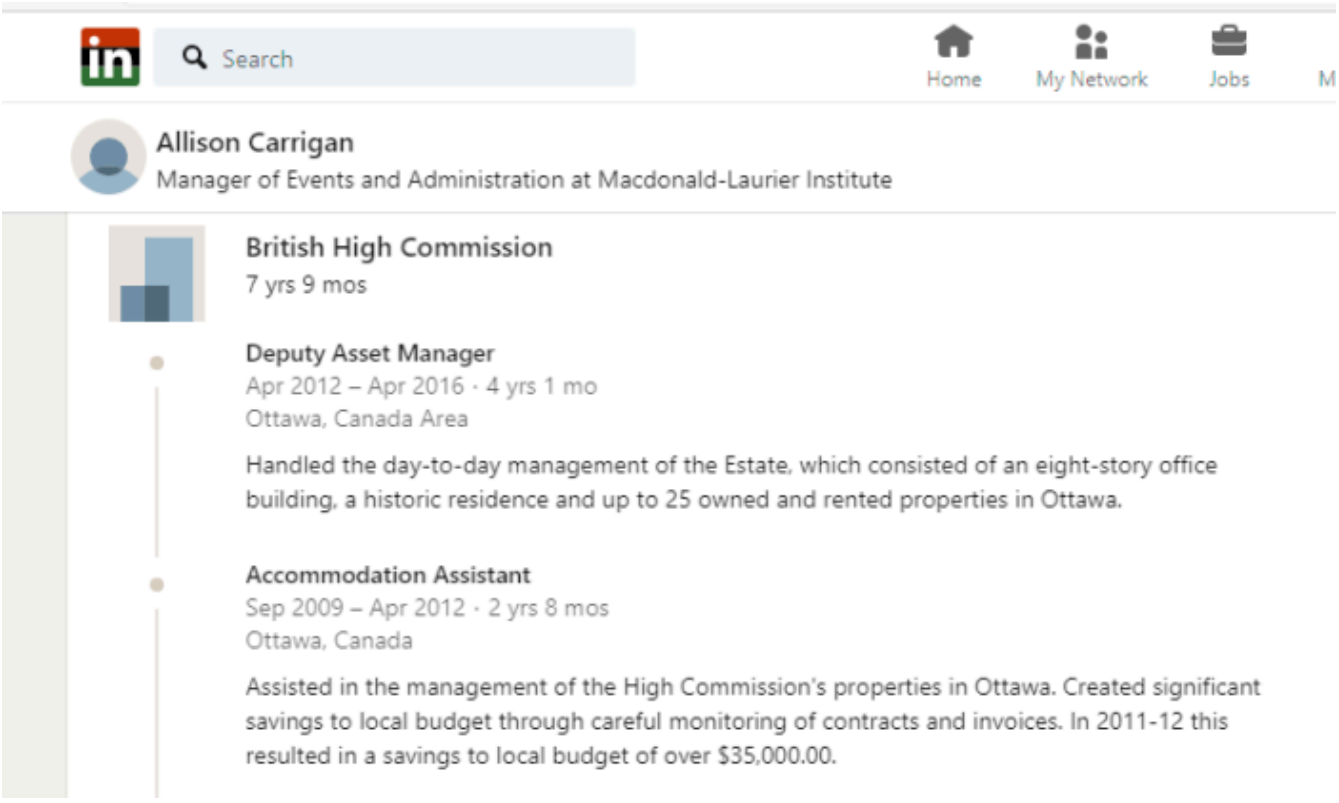
It's not much of a secret that Atlas Network is a group of "conservative" and "libertarian" think tanks, and gets a substantial part of its funding from the Koch Brothers.

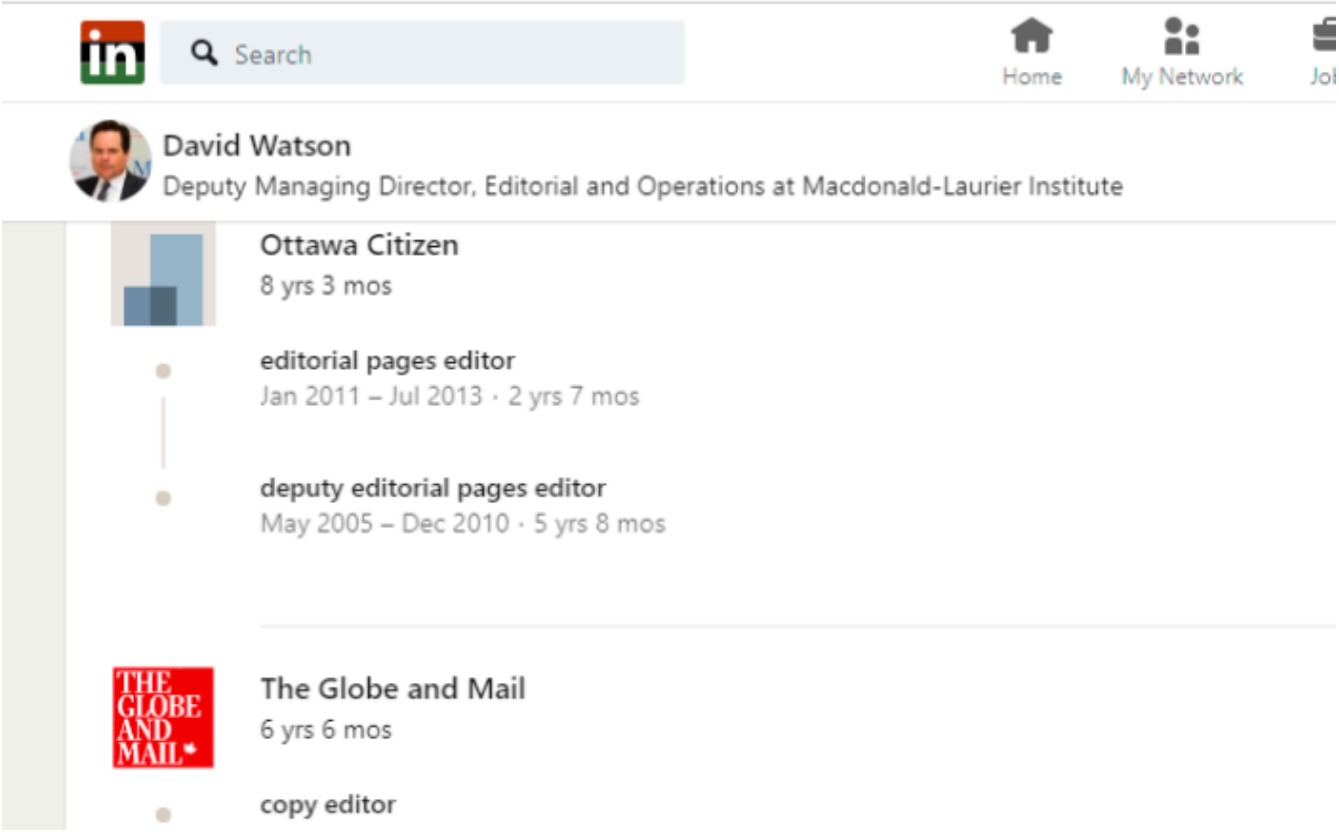
4. Staff Of MacDonald-Laurier Institute

MLI
TRUE NORTH
IN CANADIAN PUBLIC POLICY
HOME
MLI DIRECTORY
Jackelyn Beacom, Administrative Assistant (Project Management and Operations): x106
Brett Byers, Communications and Digital Media Manager: x105
Allison Carrigan, Manager of Events and Administration: x101
Brian Lee Crowley, Managing Director: x100
George Habchi, Director of Business Development, Outreach & Stakeholder Relations: x109
Ai-Men Lau, Communications Officer: x111
David McDonough, Deputy Editor: x108
Tristan Mele, Finance Manager: x104
Jonathan Berkshire Miller, Director, Indo-Pacific Program and Senior Fellow: x112
Kelly Moore, Program Manager (Contractor)
David Watson, Deputy Managing Director, Editorial and Operations: x103



Brett Byers is the Communications and Digital Media Manager for MLI. He also spent 2 1/2 years an an e-Communications Officer for the Trudeau Government.


Search
Home
My Network
Jobs
M
Allison Carrigan
Manager of Events and Administration at Macdonald-Laurier Institute
British High Commission
7 yrs 9 mos
Deputy Asset Manager
Apr 2012 – Apr 2016 · 4 yrs 1 mo
Ottawa, Canada Area
Handled the day-to-day management of the Estate, which consisted of an eight-story office building, a historic residence and up to 25 owned and rented properties in Ottawa.
Accommodation Assistant
Sep 2009 – Apr 2012 · 2 yrs 8 mos
Ottawa, Canada
Assisted in the management of the High Commission's properties in Ottawa. Created significant savings to local budget through careful monitoring of contracts and invoices. In 2011-12 this resulted in a savings to local budget of over $35,000.00.


Search
Home
My Network
David Watson
Deputy Managing Director, Editorial and Operations at Macdonald-Laurier Institute
Ottawa Citizen
8 yrs 3 mos
editorial pages editor
Jan 2011 – Jul 2013 · 2 yrs 7 mos
deputy editorial pages editor
May 2005 – Dec 2010 · 5 yrs 8 mos
THE GLOBE AND MAIL
The Globe and Mail
6 yrs 6 mos
copy editor

https://www.linkedin.com/in/brett-byers-lane-63872710a/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/allison-carrigan-69045513/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianleecrowley/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/george-habchi-02853a195/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-watson-33740221/

Full list is available here.

5. Journalists For Human Rights (JHR) Donations

▶ Details

JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

$69,891.60
Nov. 15, 2007

Organization: Canadian Heritage

Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

▼ Details

Ref # GC-2007-Q3-00173 *(Contribution)*

Additional Information:

Multi-year Project: from 2007-07-01 to 2011-03-30

JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

$250,691.00
Jun. 1, 2019

Agreement: Fighting Disinformation through Strengthened Media and Citizen Preparedness (1324624) (Jun. 1, 2019 - Mar. 31, 2020)

Description:

Canada Periodical Fund

Expected Results:

Provide project funding to associations for industry-wide initiatives.

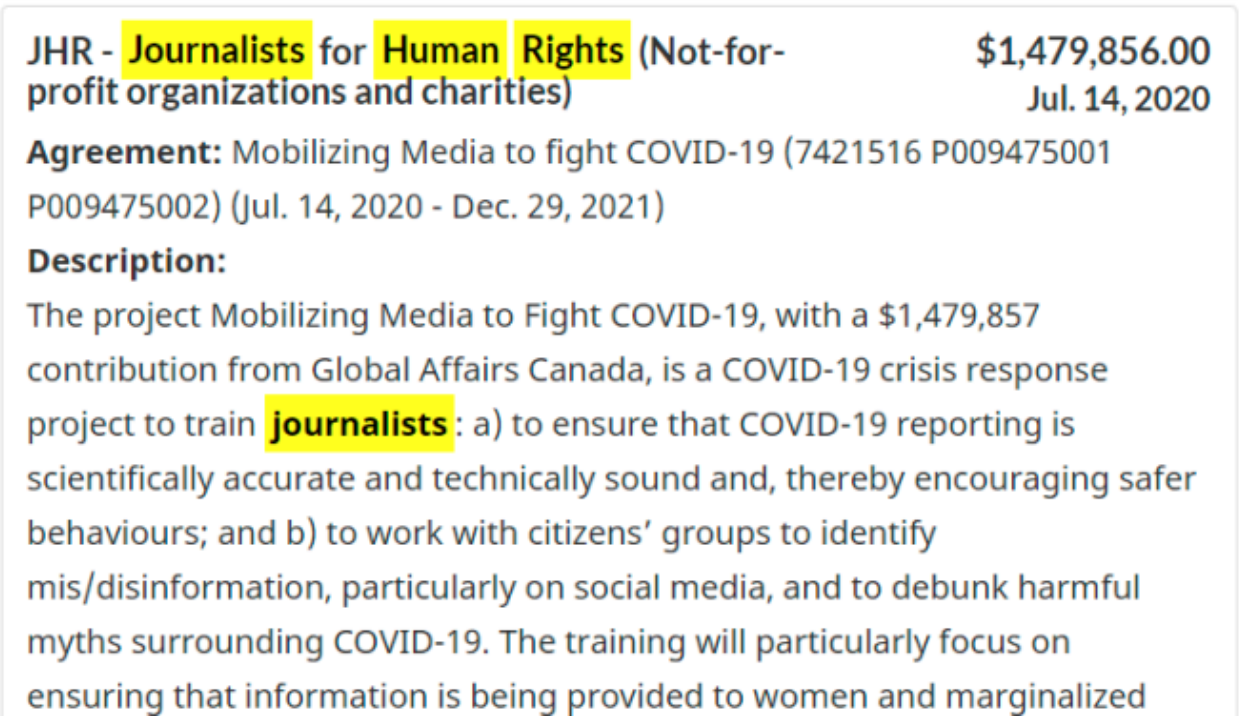
Organization: Canadian Heritage

Location: Toronto , Ontario, Canada M5V 2L7

▼ Details

Ref # 016-2019-2020-Q1-1324624 *(Contribution)*

Program: Canada Periodical Fund



JHR - Journalists for Human Rights (Not-for-profit organizations and charities) $1,479,856.00
Jul. 14, 2020

Agreement: Mobilizing Media to fight COVID-19 (7421516 P009475001 P009475002) (Jul. 14, 2020 - Dec. 29, 2021)

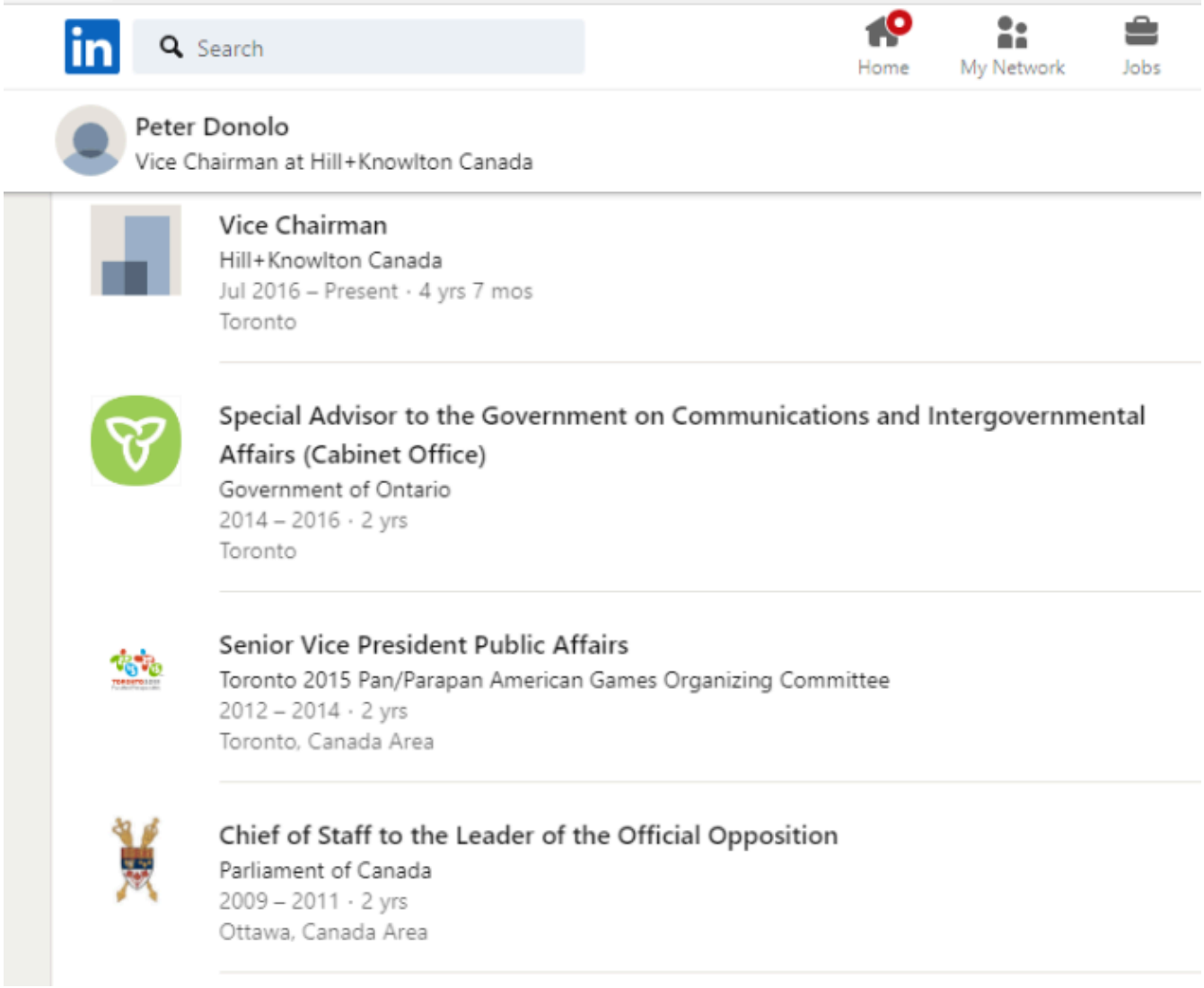
Description:

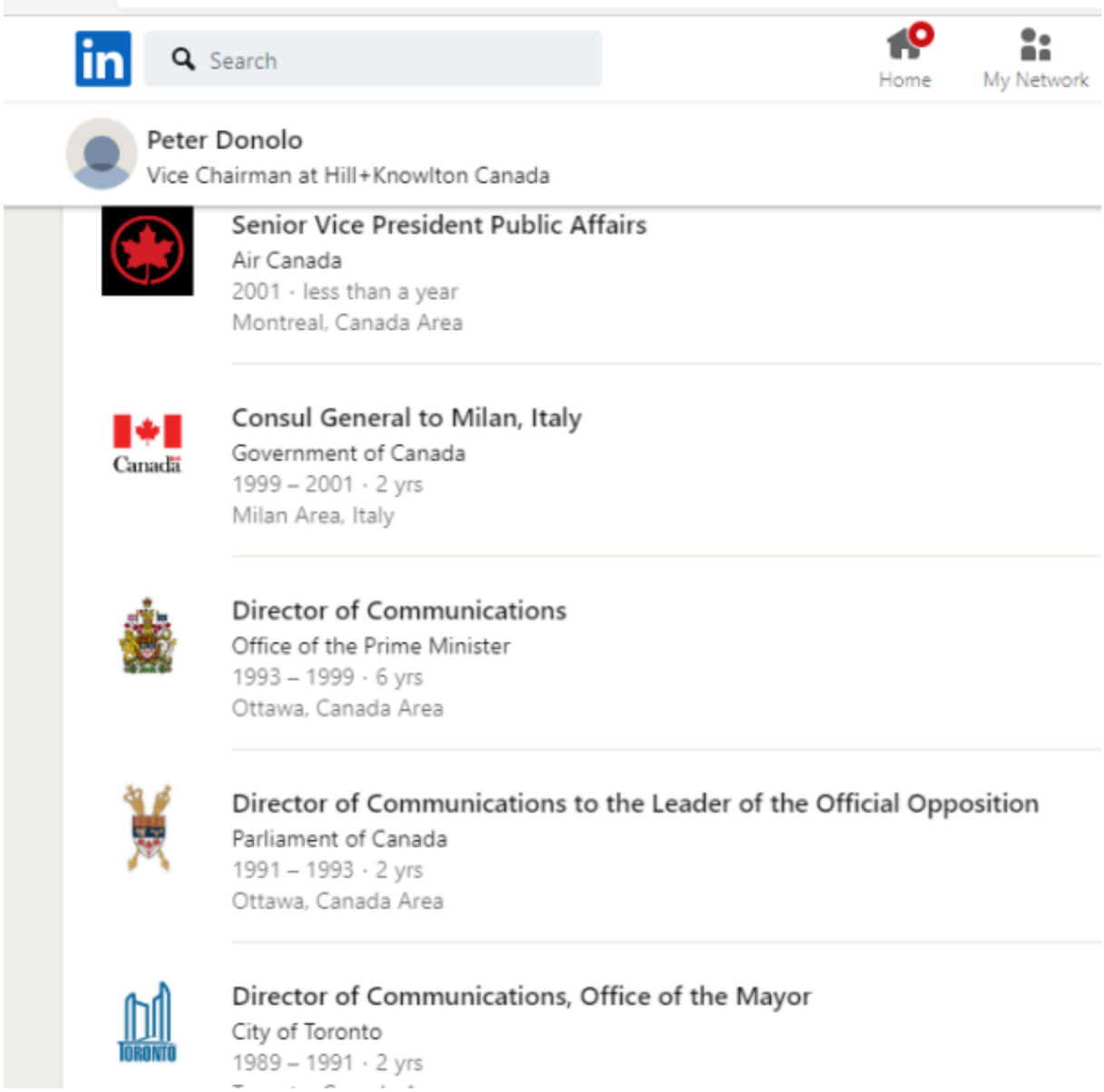
The project Mobilizing Media to Fight COVID-19, with a $1,479,857 contribution from Global Affairs Canada, is a COVID-19 crisis response project to train journalists: a) to ensure that COVID-19 reporting is scientifically accurate and technically sound and, thereby encouraging safer behaviours; and b) to work with citizens' groups to identify mis/disinformation, particularly on social media, and to debunk harmful myths surrounding COVID-19. The training will particularly focus on ensuring that information is being provided to women and marginalized

> The project ***Mobilizing Media to Fight COVID-19, with a $1,479,857 contribution from Global Affairs Canada, is a COVID-19 crisis response project to train journalists***: a) to ensure that COVID-19 reporting is scientifically accurate and technically sound and, thereby encouraging safer behaviours; and b) ***to work with citizens' groups to identify mis/disinformation, particularly on social media, and to debunk harmful myths surrounding COVID-19.*** The training will particularly focus on ensuring that information is being provided to women and marginalized communities, and that their needs and rights to adequate services are included in media coverage. Subject to the successful conclusion of discussions for the financial instrument, the project implementation partner, Journalists for HumanRights (JHR), will work in the following 12 African and Middle Eastern countries: Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen.

Journalists for Human Rights has received a few large grants from taxpayers, including nearly $1.5 million in 2020 as a form of "Covid relief". Perhaps this is cynical, but it may explain their mission to combat misinformation.

6. Peter Donolo: JHR, Longtime LPC Operative

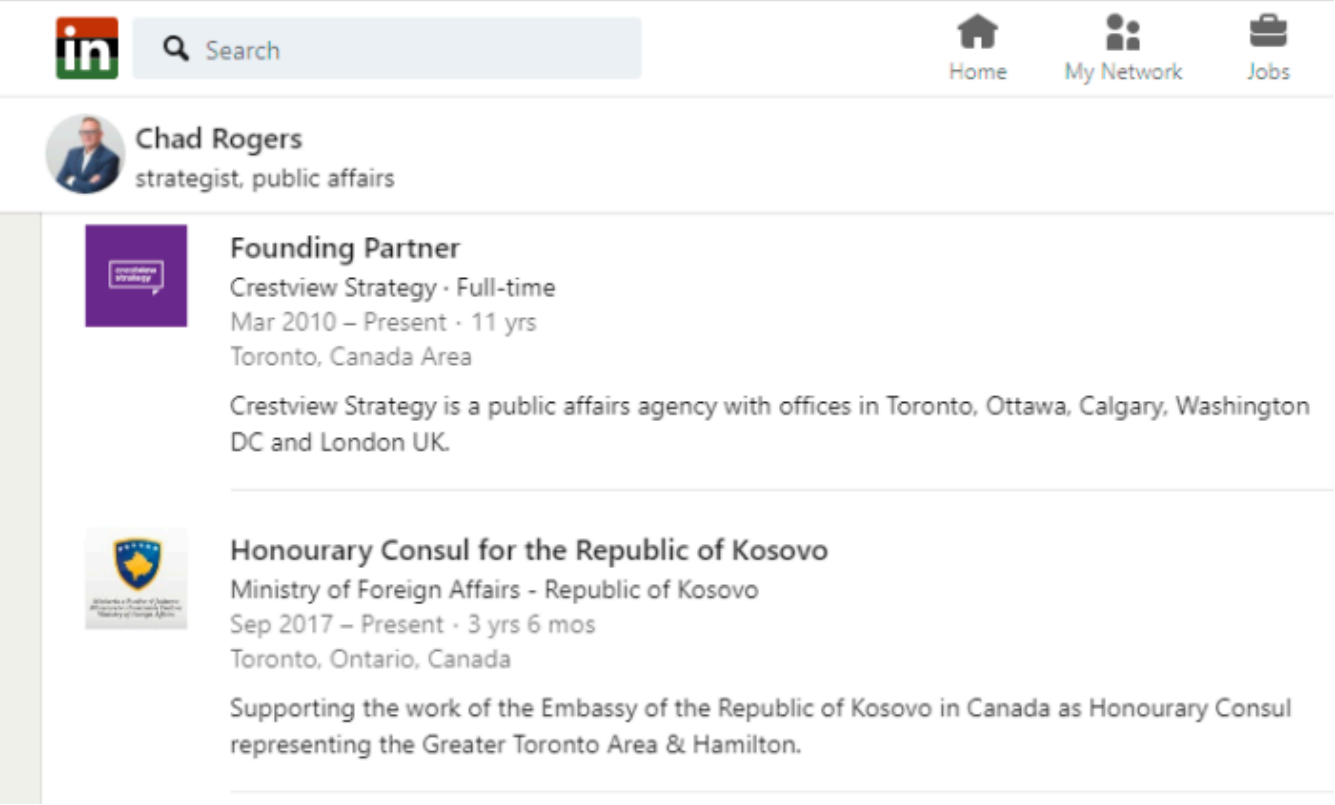

Search
Home
My Network
Jobs
Peter Donolo
Vice Chairman at Hill+Knowlton Canada
Vice Chairman
Hill+Knowlton Canada
Jul 2016 – Present · 4 yrs 7 mos
Toronto
Special Advisor to the Government on Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs (Cabinet Office)
Government of Ontario
2014 – 2016 · 2 yrs
Toronto
Senior Vice President Public Affairs
Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Organizing Committee
2012 – 2014 · 2 yrs
Toronto, Canada Area
Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Official Opposition
Parliament of Canada
2009 – 2011 · 2 yrs
Ottawa, Canada Area


Search
Home
My Network
Peter Donolo
Vice Chairman at Hill+Knowlton Canada
Senior Vice President Public Affairs
Air Canada
2001 · less than a year
Montreal, Canada Area
Consul General to Milan, Italy
Government of Canada
1999 – 2001 · 2 yrs
Milan Area, Italy
Director of Communications
Office of the Prime Minister
1993 – 1999 · 6 yrs
Ottawa, Canada Area
Director of Communications to the Leader of the Official Opposition
Parliament of Canada
1991 – 1993 · 2 yrs
Ottawa, Canada Area
Director of Communications, Office of the Mayor
City of Toronto
1989 – 1991 · 2 yrs

Peter Donolo is a longtime Liberal operative. He was Chretien's Communications Director, he worked in the Office of the Official Opposition for Michael Ignatieff, and other political roles. Ignatieff, incidently, is now a Vice-President of Soros' Open Society Group.

Donolo is also now a Board Member at CIVIX and Journalists for Human Rights. He has ties to the Liberals, who are also funding various initiatives to counter misinformation.

7. Chad Rogers, Crestview Strategy


Search
Home
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Jobs
Chad Rogers
strategist, public affairs
Founding Partner
Crestview Strategy · Full-time
Mar 2010 – Present · 11 yrs
Toronto, Canada Area
Crestview Strategy is a public affairs agency with offices in Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Washington DC and London UK.
Honourary Consul for the Republic of Kosovo
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Republic of Kosovo
Sep 2017 – Present · 3 yrs 6 mos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Supporting the work of the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Canada as Honourary Consul representing the Greater Toronto Area & Hamilton.

Chad Rogers not only works for JHR, but he's a Co-Founder of the lobbying firm, Crestview Strategy. Another Co-Founder is Rob Silver, husband of Katie Telford, the Chief of Staff for Justin Trudeau. Incidently, Crestview was also involved in lobbying Canadian officials for money is relation to vaccines.

Looking through some of the other members, such as Michael Cooke and Karen Restoule, it's clear the the Journalists for Human Rights actually are journalists with connections to the mainstream media.

8. JHS Agenda: Combatting Misinformation

jhr
Mobilizing media. Changing lives.
ABOUT
OUR WORK
OUR STORIES
GET INVOLVED
CONTACT
DONATE
CANADA: COMBATING MISINFORMATION
Canadians need quality, trustworthy coverage for evidence-based public debate about issues that matter, to hold duty bearers accountable and to mobilize knowledge toward solutions to complex problems. JHR's project, "Fighting Disinformation through Strengthened Media and Citizen Preparedness in Canada" trains journalists on best practices of combating disinformation and
g deliberate manipulation of public opinion on social media, while concurrently engaging
Funded by the Government of Canada
Canada
https://jhr.ca/our-work

Canadians need quality, trustworthy coverage for evidence-based public debate about issues that matter, to hold duty bearers accountable and to mobilize knowledge toward solutions to complex problems. JHR's project, "Fighting Disinformation through Strengthened Media and Citizen Preparedness in Canada" ***trains journalists on best practices of combating disinformation and exposing deliberate manipulation of public opinion on social media***, while concurrently engaging people in Canada on digital and news skills literacy to enhance citizen preparedness against online manipulation and misinformation.

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This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada.

Canadians need reliable, quality coverage to hold factual debates on important issues, empower bondholders, and mobilize knowledge to find solutions to complex problems. ***JDH's project, "Fighting Disinformation Through Media Strengthening and Preparing Citizens in Canada," trains journalists in best practices to combat misinformation and expose the deliberate manipulation of public opinion on social media, while simultaneously engaging the Canadian public on digital literacy and news to build resilience against online manipulation and misinformation.***

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This project was made possible in part by the Government of Canada.

Straight from the source. This project was made possible — namely, funded — by the Canadian Government. The Journalists for Human Rights are less about journalism, and more about perpetuating the official narratives. While fact-checking stories is important, fact-checking the fact-checkers needs to be done as well.

These are the groups behind DisinfoWatch:
(a) Journalists for Human Rights
(b) MacDonald-Laurier Institute

9. No Wonder Government Measures Are Legal

DisinfoWatch has released many articles “debunking” so-called conspiracy theories, and trying to debunk claims that this is all about population control, and forcibly altering society. In fact, virtually all exposes that reveal Government deception are labelled hoaxes. Although, one has to wonder how many theories are put out by groups like DisinfoWatch, as an effort to make all claims seem ridiculous.

CANADA, GLOBALISM, MEDIA, NGO/CS, SOCIAL MEDIA, UN/WHO, VACCINES, WARS